



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
21 APRIL 1967

1. North Vietnam

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2. Communist China

Premier Chou En-lai remains Peking's chief spokesman, but he may be losing ground to the radicals. Some of the more rational policies Chou put into effect in February have lately been reversed. The heavy attacks on his protege, Foreign Minister Chen Yi, are also part of the picture.

Chou has, as best we can determine, been running China with very little help. The new politburo installed last August had 25 members; the leadership's scorpion-in-a-bottle performance has left only seven of these active and clearly in good standing. The seven include Mao, Lin Piao, Chou himself, one propagandist, two policemen, and one economic administrator.

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3. Sino-Soviet

Peking's deep hatred for the Soviet leadership came out in a discussion [redacted]

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[redacted] late last month.

Chou again charged Moscow with secret US-Soviet collusion against China and accused the Russians of undercutting Nasir's efforts to inspire revolt in South Arabia. Chou even said he was thinking of ending the periodic talks in Warsaw between the Chinese and US ambassadors because the talks were exploited by the Soviets.

[redacted]
[redacted] Hanoi had released the letters between President Johnson and Ho Chi Minh because the North Vietnamese wanted to make it clear that no meaningful discussions were under way. This is much the same line taken in Hanoi propaganda.

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4. West Germany

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5. Non-Proliferation
Treaty

Yesterday the North Atlantic Council gave the US its approval to move ahead in talks with the Soviets aimed at getting a draft treaty on the table when the 18 Nation Disarmament Committee meets at Geneva on 9 May.

Neither the Italians nor the Germans, however, are committed to any treaty draft and still have major reservations. They are reluctant about provisions on safeguards and those which might preclude a European nuclear defense community sometime in the future. They also would like any treaty to have an expiration date.

The French do not intend to sign a non-proliferation treaty.


6. France



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7. Greece

The government of Premier Kanellopoulos was toppled early this morning by a group of military officers in a fast-moving, well-planned coup.

One of the military's first acts was to arrest left-wing leader Andreas Papandreou.  Kanellopoulos also has been taken into custody and a guard has been placed around the palace.

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The army controls Athens and the city is quiet. There appears to be no danger to Americans.

The coup is not likely to affect Greek relations with the US.

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